**AP United States History**

**Mrs. Johnson**

**2020-2021 Syllabus**

**Room**: 301-A

**Email**: borthwik@etsu.edu

**Materials:**

*A Documentary History of the United States*

*American Pageant*

*AMSCO 2020 Edition*

Additional primary sources, articles and handouts will be used throughout the year as appropriate.

Students should also have with them every day:

* a notebook specific to the course (this class only)\*
* a folder or binder for handouts and all previous tests and quizzes
* a pen or pencil

**Course Overview:** AP United States History will resemble a freshman college introductory course to American history. It will be a challenging experience and students should expect the workload to be comparable to what college demands. As it is taught at a high school, this course meets five days a week. It is assumed that students have a high level of interest and competence in history prior to beginning this course. The focus will be on providing students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. History. The application of those skills will culminate with the AP United States History examination in May. Students will work to improve reading and writing skills through nightly reading assignments and consistent writing assignments. Students will be expected to participate daily in class discussions of assigned readings. The skills students enhance during this course will assist them during their college years and in lifelong learning.

AP United States History includes components of political, social, economic, cultural, diplomatic, and intellectual history. The goals of this course are to provide multiple mechanisms to make connections from the past to the present as well as contemplating the experiences of the varied and diverse perspectives of the people in the United States. Ultimately, students are preparing to take the AP United States History Exam given each year in May. By developing the above-mentioned skills, students will prepare for the four components of the Exam. On a regular basis, students will experience Multiple-Choice exams, Free- Response essays (FRQs), Short-Answer Questions, and Document Based Questions (DBQs).

As students study and prepare for the AP U.S. History Exam, they will cover various themes during the discussions of our nation’s history. As these themes are also highly recommended by the College Board, the student’s ultimate goal is to look at a well-rounded and developed view of our past. These themes include the following:

1. Work, Exchange, and Technology

2. Peopling

3. Ideas, Beliefs, and Culture

4. America in the World

5. Environment and Geography - Physical and Human

6. Politics and Power

7. Identity

It is only by incorporating these concepts into our studies can we truly appreciate our own history. As most students have already taken at least one American history course, basic factual knowledge is assumed. We will work toward perfecting the “art” of history – interpretation of sources, analysis of conflicting viewpoints, and persuasive writing.

**Course Outline:** The list below indicates a general plan for the course regarding time and material. Be advised that materials or amount of time spent on each unit may change during the course of the year.

**Period 1: 1491-1607** (approximately 7 instructional days)

**Period 2: 1607-1754** (approximately 14 instructional days)

**Period 3: 1754-1800** (approximately 17 instructional days)

**Period 4: 1800-1848** (approximately 14 instructional days)

**Period 5: 1844-1877** (approximately 19 instructional days)

**Period 6:** **1865-1898** (approximately 19 instructional days)

**Period 7:** **1890-1945** (approximately 23 instructional days)

**Period 8:** **1945-1980** (approximately 21 instructional days)

**Period 9:** **1980-Present** (approximately 7 instructional days)

After the exam, the class completes a major research project.

**Homework:** Should you miss an assignment, you will be required to submit the assignment within three academic days of its due date, or no credit will be given. If you have a good reason as to why you cannot get to the homework that night (family emergency, worked late, etc.), it is your responsibility to e-mail me and let me know in advance. You should also be checking the class webpage when you are absent. Staying on top of homework is essential to success in this course. Due to the sheer volume of information we are going to cover, there will be lots of reading assigned.

**Quizzes:** For every chapter in the AMSCO, you will be given a quiz to make sure you are keeping up on material. The quiz average accounts for twenty percent of your marking period grade. If you miss a quiz, you will be expected to take the quiz upon your return to school. If you are unable to take the quiz upon your return, it is your responsibility to go to testing lab to make up the quiz. The deadline to make up a quiz is one week from the initial date of the quiz.

**Tests:** After approximately three or four chapters, you will have a test, the average of which will count as forty percent of your marking period grade. They will be designed to make sure you master a variety of skills and concepts. The percentage they comprise is evidence of their importance. Be sure to study. The same policy for making up quizzes applies for tests.

**Essays:** Like tests, you may have an essay at the end of each unit and possibly some mixed in throughout the semester. Their average will count towards your test or quiz average for each marking period grade. A rubric on how I will grade essays will follow.

**AP Exam and Final Exam:** All students are encouraged and expected to take the AP Exam in May. The whole course prepares you for that experience and the exam in an integral part of the course. Colleges award college credit for qualifying scores on the exam.

**Web Page:** The class web page is the primary source for accessing any handouts/links, etc. you may have missed or lost. You should consult the page before you ask what you missed while you were out.

**Extra Help:** Extra help is available any time you feel you need it. However, it is your responsibility to come see me. An appointment must be made and kept. You must cite specific issues you want to work on when you make the appointment. Participation could warrant extra credit points.

**Questions:** There is no such thing as a stupid question. If you do not understand something or are unsure of something, ask. Remember, you are responsible for your own education.

**Cheating:** I expect honest, independent work from all students at all times. **Any** academic dishonesty (homework included) will result in a zero for the assignment. Refer to the plagiarism policy if you have any questions.

***APUSH is an excellent way to challenge yourself. I know you will find this experience to be well worth it if you put in the appropriate time and effort needed to be successful. I am very excited to begin, and look forward to being your teacher for this school year!***